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No. 56

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 30, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NIKEMA WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING JIM TUMAN AND JIMMY'S KIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Jim Tuman and the volunteers behind Jimmy's Kids, an organization that serves the families of Wayne County, including the community and neighborhood I grew up in, southwest Detroit.

In 1988, Jim Tuman, a youth advocate and motivational speaker, was

simply trying to make the Christmas holiday special for 22 special-needs children. He coordinated an ad hoc program to provide the children with holiday gifts.

The Jimmy's Kids organization now serves thousands of children all across metro Detroit. Jimmy's Kids proudly partners with local groups and churches to set up gift-giving, not just during the holiday, but year-round, for children in need.

Countless families can count on their Christmas Day gift distribution program, an event I happily volunteer for during the holidays.

Please join me in recognizing Jim Tuman and the volunteers at Jimmy's Kids for their outstanding work on behalf of the families of metro Detroit and Michigan's 13th District Strong.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PATRICIA HARRIS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of community advocate Patricia Harris, a resident of Westland in Michigan's 13th District Strong who suddenly passed away earlier this year, shocking our close community.

Pat was engaged on a number of issues but was mostly known for her big heart and infectious smile. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Pat stood up for the values she believed in and always met challenges with positivity and a can-do attitude. She cared deeply for our community and fought relentlessly for justice and a better quality of life for all.

The loss of our Pat left an impact on all who knew her. Please join me in remembering Patricia Harris for the love of her community as we mourn her loss.

LAUNCHING THE BIPARTISAN GET THE LEAD OUT CAUCUS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to officially announce the launch of the bipartisan Get the Lead Out Caucus, which I started along with my

colleagues Congressman MEIJER, Congresswoman DINGELL, and Congresswoman BLUNT ROCHESTER.

Water contaminated by lead service lines can be found in every single congressional district around the Nation. From rural areas to densely populated cities, lead service lines are widespread and pose serious health risks to us all, but particularly our children.

Lead in water is a public health crisis, and the only solution is to fully eliminate lead service lines altogether. Clean, affordable drinking water is a human right.

While communities in Michigan like Flint, Wayne, Hamtramck, and Benton Harbor have made headlines for their lead-related crises, lead-contaminated drinking water affects every part of our Nation.

I commend the Biden administration for taking steps to get the lead out of our water, but we must continue to fight until lead is fully removed from water systems across the United States.

TIME TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as someone who grew up in a community on the front line of the racist so-called war on drugs, I am proud to stand here today in support of the MORE Act to finally decriminalize marijuana and expunge marijuana-related convictions.

The war on drugs was designed as a racist project to target our Black and Brown communities. The obvious racial disparities in enforcement show us that it still is, at its core, an effort targeting communities of color through overpolicing, criminalization, and mass incarceration.

The MORE Act will increase access to Federal benefits and establish a fund to redirect resources into communities harmed by the war on drugs. This is a good start on the road to repairing the damage, but we still have work to do.

We must be bold. Our goal must be to end this country's militarized "jail

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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first, ask questions later'' approach to addiction and to stop trying to solve social problems with more criminalization.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the MORE Act. This is a commonsense bill.

FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the recent passage of the omnibus bill, which included over \$15 million in funding for local community projects in 13 District Strong.

From funding for work-based learning programs in Wayne-Westland Community Schools to a senior wellness center in Inkster, Michigan, I know that these direct dollars will have an enormous impact on the lives of my residents.

The 13th Congressional District, Madam Speaker, is the third-poorest congressional district in the Nation, and these are important efforts to help the most vulnerable among us.

The Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan, which is the oldest in the Nation, will be funded for improvements to the Fauver-Martin Club in Highland Park. It will empower so many of our young people.

The Urban Neighborhood Initiative for the Southwest Detroit Creative Connections Collaborative will also be able to employ high-speed broadband and build community space for our young people.

Enterprise Community Partners will also fund the Detroit Energy Efficiency and Home Improvement Program to provide energy-efficient home repairs and so much more.

TAXING OUR FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since the founding of our Nation, American farms have been at the bedrock of our economy.

Our farmers, growers, and ranchers produce the dairy, wheat, corn, apples, and peaches that we have relied on for generations to feed our families, our neighbors, and the world.

There are over 52,000 farms across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the struggles that affect them affect each and every one of us.

Right now, our farmers are facing so many difficult challenges. The cost to run a farm is estimated to grow by nearly 7 percent next year. To make matters even worse, the cost of fertilizer has already risen by over 50 percent in the past 12 months. Now, the Biden administration is preparing to implement new taxes on fertilizer imports from overseas.

Now is not the time to tax our farmers even more. President Biden cannot use our growers and producers to pay for his out-of-control budget.

We need to ensure that our farmers have the resources that they need to

continue producing the food that each of us relies on every day. We need to make sure that they have the fertilizer, the grain, and the seeds that it takes to work a farm or to tend an orchard.

American farmers feed the world. It is time to stop imposing new and crippling taxes on our hardworking farmers. It is time to let them get back to work on feeding all of us.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAR-LEFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Monday, President Biden laid out his budget for the coming year, a budget that contains \$73 trillion in spending, \$58 trillion in taxes, and over \$16 trillion in debt.

When he unveiled this far-left spending proposal, President Biden said that a budget is a statement of values. However, by failing to mention our border security, by tacking on billions of dollars for environmental justice, and by stripping out the Hyde amendment, President Biden has delivered to the American people a budget that does not share our values.

We need a budget that protects the border. We need a budget that stops the flow of illegal drugs, like fentanyl, into our communities. We need a budget that promotes American energy in the face of egregious Russian aggression. We need a budget that defends all human life.

We don't need this socialist spending spree; we don't need \$58 trillion in taxes; and we certainly do not need \$16 trillion in new debt that mortgages the future of our children.

CONSERVATIVES HELPING PUTIN IN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, as we stand here on the House floor, Ukrainians are bravely defending their country against an illegal invasion by Russian forces ordered by Vladimir Putin.

We have seen hospitals attacked and mothers and children crushed by the rubble. We have seen civilians fleeing this tragic conflict via humanitarian corridors, agreed to by the Russian Government, attacked by Russian troops. We have seen a theater-turned-shelter, with the word "children" clearly displayed, reduced to rubble.

The blood of all of these innocents lost in this senseless war is on the hands of one man: Vladimir Putin.

Ukrainians are standing up to this tyrant. They are fighting to stop the advance of an autocratic leader who has launched an illegal, premeditated invasion.

Yet, if you listen to certain prominent voices, you will hear some conservative leaders not condemning Vladimir Putin's war, not praising the heroism of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, Ukrainian troops, and

Ukrainian citizens. No, they are instead lauding the so-called genius of a violent, power-hungry dictator.

There is a term we use in politics for people who propagandize for a cause whose goals they don't understand and who are then used by the cause's leaders: useful idiots.

I will not purport to know if the individuals who are praising Putin and spreading misinformation genuinely believe their own words, but I do know that Putin finds them useful.

There is a concerning long list of American conservatives who have turned themselves into Putin's useful idiots. When the invasion first began, one host claimed on his news show that Ukraine was not a democracy. This is the very same lie that Putin himself has used in the effort to justify his invasion of Ukraine. In fact, these comments were aired on Russian state television, and a member of the Russian Defense Ministry's public council said these remarks were excellent.

Another conservative voice has used her platform to criticize Zelenskyy and echo Russian propaganda, including a Kremlin talking point that Russians created Ukraine, which has been used to justify this invasion. Her social media posts have been amplified and shared by other Russian accounts.

Even our own former President has praised Putin, calling the horrific invasion of Ukraine "genius." A Member of this very body called President Zelenskyy a "thug" and the Ukrainian Government "incredibly evil."

Exactly 2 weeks ago, every Member of this body had an opportunity to hear from President Zelenskyy directly as he joined us virtually from Ukraine's capital. His bravery and courage were on full display. He is a hero.

Vladimir Putin is a thug, and the repeating of these lies by American voices is playing into his hands. Aiding Putin in this way is not just disturbing because of the role it plays in enabling his messaging of this premeditated invasion; it also speaks to a broader trend among some American conservatives toward sympathizing with autocrats that should worry us all.

Last year, I spoke before this body to condemn conservative American pundits who were praising Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Like Putin, Orban is an autocratic leader who wields strict control of the media, restricts LGBTQ rights, and suppresses free speech. At that time, I expressed my concern at what this may indicate about the growing sympathy for autocrats in our own country. Unfortunately, this latest trend of praising Putin and condemning Zelenskyy tells me the slide toward autocracy continues.

Praise for autocratic leaders and what they represent is dangerous. At a time when political polarization has reached new heights and American vulnerability to misinformation is increasing, we cannot afford to watch anyone of influence, whether they be a